

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 have been cancelled, and new claims 13-33 have been added. The status of the related applications at 0001 has been updated, to show the abandoned status of serial numbers 09/822,811 and 09/537,860.

New claims 13-33 generally relate to the embodiment shown in Figs. 16-23, and described in the specification at 0047-0070.

New claim 13 describes a grip strip having a first grip arm attached to a first channel wall, and a second grip arm attached to a second channel wall. A cover strip includes a rib engageable into a slot on the grip strip, as generally shown in Figs. 16 and 18.

New claim 23 describes an embodiment having back to back base strips, as shown in Figs. 22 and 23.

Regarding the rejections over the prior art, Kump, *et al.* does not disclose the first and second spaced apart channel walls, or the first and second grip arms in claims 13, 23, or 33. In addition, Kump, *et al.* does not suggest various of the elements in the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**REPLACEMENT SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPH SHEET:**

[0001] This application is a Continuation of Serial No. 09/822,811, filed March 22, 2001, and now pending abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 09/537,860, filed March 28, 2000, and now pending abandoned, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 09/007,491, filed January 15, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,065,236, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/880,021, filed June 20, 1997, and now abandoned. These applications are incorporated herein by reference.

**COMPLETE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS:**

1-12. Cancelled.

13. (New) A framing system, comprising:

a grip strip including:

a base;

first and second spaced apart channel walls attached to the base

and forming a slot between them;

a first grip arm attached to the first channel wall and a second grip arm attached to the second channel wall; and

a cover strip including a rib engageable into the slot in the grip strip, to attach the cover strip onto the grip strip.

14. (New) The framing system of claim 13 further including at least one transparent picture frame having an edge securable between the base and the first grip arm.

15. (New) The framing system of claim 13 wherein the grip strip is symmetrical about a centerline of the grip strip, and the first channel wall is a mirror image of the second channel wall and the first grip arm is a mirror image of the second grip arm.

16. (New) The framing system of claim 13 wherein the first and second channel walls are substantially parallel to each other and substantially perpendicular to the base.

17. (New) The framing system of claim 13 further comprising a first joggle section on the first grip arm and a second joggle section on the second grip arm.

18. (New) The framing system of claim 13 further comprising a plurality of clearance holes through the base and located between the first and second channel walls, for mounting the grip strip onto a wall using fasteners.

19. (New) The framing system of claim 13 with the cover strip having an outer curved surface dimensioned so that the cover strip substantially entirely covers the grip strip when the cover strip is attached to the grip strip.

20. (New) The framing system of claim 13 with the first grip arm having an inside surface facing the base, and further comprising one or more arm fingers on the inside surface of the first grip arm, and one or more base fingers on the base adjacent to the arm fingers.

21. (New) The framing system of claim 20 further comprising at least one protrusion on the base located between the base fingers and the first channel wall.

22. (New) The framing system of claim 14 wherein the picture frame comprises a transparent envelope having a first panel and a second panel, with an edge of the first panel engageable between the first arm and the base, to attach the picture frame to the base.

23. (New) A framing system, comprising:

a grip strip including:

a base having a first side and a second side;

first and second spaced apart channel walls attached to the first side of the base and forming a first slot between them;

a first grip arm attached to the first channel wall and a second grip arm attached to the second channel wall;

third and fourth spaced apart channel walls attached to the second side of the base and forming a second slot between them;

a first cover strip including a first rib engageable into the first slot in the grip strip, to attach the first cover strip onto the first side of the grip strip; and

a second cover strip including a second rib engageable into the second slot in the grip strip, to attach the second cover strip onto a second side of the grip strip.

24. (New) The framing system of claim 22 wherein the first and second cover strips are substantially identical and are interchangeable.

25. (New) The framing system of claim 22 further comprising a first picture frame securable between the first grip arm and the base, a second picture frame securable between the second grip and the base, a third picture frame securable between the third grip arm and the base, and a fourth picture frame securable between the fourth grip arm and the base.

26. (New) The framing system of claim 24 wherein the first side of the grip strip is symmetrical to the second side of the grip strip, and wherein the first, second, third and fourth picture frames are substantially identical and interchangeable.

27. (New) The framing system of claim 22 wherein the first, second, third and fourth channel walls are substantially parallel to each other and substantially perpendicular to the base.

28. (New) The framing system of claim 27 wherein the first and second channel walls are aligned with the third and fourth channel walls, respectively.

29. (New) The framing system of claim 22 further comprising a first joggle section on the first grip arm and a second joggle section on the second grip arm.

30. (New) The framing system of claim 22 wherein the first and second cover strips substantially cover the entire first and second sides of the grip strip, when they are attached to the grip strip.

31. (New) The framing system of claim 22 with the first grip arm having an inside surface facing the base, and further comprising one or more arm fingers on the inside surface of the first grip arm, and one or more base fingers on the base aligned with the arm fingers.

32. (New) The framing system of claim 31 further comprising at least one protrusion on the base located between the base fingers and the first channel wall.

33. (New) A framing system, comprising:

a grip strip including:

a base;

first and second spaced apart channel walls attached to the base and forming a slot between them;

a first grip arm attached to the first channel wall and a second grip arm attached to the second channel wall;

a cover strip including a rib engageable into the slot in the grip strip, to attach the cover strip onto the grip strip; and

at least one transparent picture frame having an edge securable between the base and the first grip arm.